

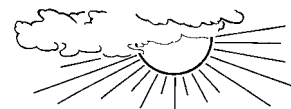


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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending August 29, 2004

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Excellent Week for Field Work: Much needed relief from this summer's excessive rainfall was experienced throughout the Commonwealth last week. Some areas, however, are still quite saturated with water standing in low-lying fields. Surplus soil moisture was measured at 22 percent. Six days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included baling hay, spreading manure, applying herbicides and pesticides, harvesting oats, tobacco, and silage, and preparing equipment for fall seeding and harvest.

Crops: Corn is still progressing quite well in most areas and is reported to be in very good condition. Eight percent of this year's corn crop has already matured, which is already ahead of previous years' trends. The oat harvest is nearly complete as 95 percent of oats have been harvested. Soybean condition improved slightly from the previous week and stood at 1 percent poor, 7 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 40 percent excellent. The potato percent harvest is progressing nicely and is right on track with the 5-year average. The tobacco harvest is moving along very well this year and is well ahead of last year's average as well as the 5-year average. Seventy-two percent of tobacco in the state had been harvested as of last week. Some farms are reporting they have completely finished the tobacco harvest. Making hay was much easier with the weather relief last week, but too much rain for too long has left many farmers with damp spirits about this year's hay crop. The second cutting of alfalfa is winding down with the third and fourth cuttings now in full swing. Reports from some farms state that it will be very tough to get a quality fourth cutting in this year. The alfalfa stand condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 15 percent excellent, which was a modest improvement over the previous week. The second cutting of timothy clover is still progressing nicely and is now 66 percent complete. The overall quality of hay made improved from last week but still leaves much to be desired at 2 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

Conditions remained favorable in areas of the state growing fruits. The peach harvest was 82 percent complete, which is on pace with previous years' trends in Pennsylvania. The apple harvest slowed down a bit and is now 35 percent complete. This is still well ahead of last year. Apple conditions stood at 19 percent fair, 51 percent good and 30 percent excellent. The grape harvest is in full swing as well 17 percent of grapes being harvested. This is well ahead of last year at the same time.

Livestock: Pasture conditions were unchanged for the most part despite the respite from torrential rains throughout the state this summer. During the last week, the pasture condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

U.S. As of August 22, 2004: Highlights: Below-normal temperatures persisted across the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Despite steady progress, crop development remained behind normal in the northern areas of the regions. Along the Atlantic Coast, temperatures were below normal and precipitation was moderate, although periods of warm, dry weather aided crop development. Corn: Seventy percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, the same as last year but 6 percentage points behind normal. Denting, at 36 percent complete, was 7 points ahead of last year but 3 points behind the 5-year average. Six percent of the crop was mature, compared with 5 percent last year and 7 percent for the average. Soybeans: Pod setting advanced to 91 percent complete, 4 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal. Sorghum: Eighty-two percent of the crop had reached the heading stage, 7 points ahead of last year but 4 points behind the average. Coloring advanced to 37 percent, 2 points behind last year and 11 points behind normal. Maturity, at 21 percent, was 1 point behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Small Grains: Seventy-five percent of the oat crop had been harvested, compared with 88 percent last year and 85 percent for the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 29, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 29, 2004					GDD Base 40F Total
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest												
Erie	88	62	74	6	0.72	2	19.10	1.09	73	2,121	90	3,455
Franklin	87	46	70	4	1.37	4	30.19	9.53	87	2,038	122	3,392
Meadville	83	49	71	6	0.81	2	24.36	3.89	82	1,929	173	3,253
Mercer	84	38	67	0	1.34	3	23.82	4.33	70	1,660	-235	2,971
Springboro	85	45	70	3	2.35	2	25.46	7.52	86	1,895	-122	3,208
Warren	84	45	71	5	0.74	4	32.10	11.56	93	1,904	40	3,242
North Central												
Bradford Region	80	47	68	7	0.34	3	21.91	1.31	91	1,583	212	2,886
Emporium	86	50	71	8	0.09	2	27.29	6.56	82	2,042	507	3,394
Kane	77	38	62	1	0.93	3	26.38	5.52	77	1,006	-342	2,245
Laporte	81	51	67	1	0.33	2	31.88	12.87	88	1,761	-153	3,079
Lock Haven	87	52	72	5	0.43	2	30.85	12.09	67	2,281	259	3,698
Port Allegany	83	45	69	7	0.10	2	23.25	3.82	78	1,716	207	3,020
Renovo	86	53	72	5	0.00	0	25.15	6.39	71	2,227	205	3,614
Ridgway	83	44	68	5	0.34	3	27.93	7.20	69	1,707	172	3,016
Stevenson Dam	86	51	71	8	0.00	0	25.62	4.89	75	2,111	576	3,481
Towanda	85	50	70	5	0.22	1	23.08	7.33	78	2,132	202	3,493
Wellsboro	82	46	67	5	0.00	0	27.51	11.65	74	1,699	244	3,012
Williamsport	86	53	73	4	0.04	1	24.44	5.87	82	2,411	183	3,838
Northeast												
Hawley	86	46	67	3	0.05	1	23.35	5.38	61	1,832	178	3,152
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	52	71	3	0.11	1	20.90	3.39	68	2,237	119	3,633
Susquehanna	88	50	70	7	0.90	3	25.07	5.84	74	2,166	586	3,539
West Central												
Butler	84	48	70	4	1.20	4	27.31	7.70	91	2,046	63	3,400
New Castle	89	48	72	6	0.90	2	26.25	8.51	69	2,249	265	3,614
Slippery Rock	86	43	70	5	0.62	4	26.67	7.60	88	2,119	328	3,494
Central												
Altoona/Blair	86	51	70	3	0.22	2	21.75	4.73	78	2,197	78	3,568
DuBois	81	49	69	4	0.83	3	28.93	9.25	97	1,902	58	3,244
Lewistown	88	54	73	4	1.00	1	22.32	3.87	66	2,423	104	3,840
Middletown	90	57	74	3	0.02	1	28.18	10.14	65	2,779	167	4,233
Prince Gallitzi	87	47	69	4	0.03	1	26.12	4.23	71	1,942	238	3,283
Selinsgrove	84	52	71	4	0.06	1	25.00	6.21	73	2,348	173	3,753
State College	84	52	71	4	0.45	2	24.14	6.98	68	2,262	164	3,648
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	89	52	72	3	0.26	1	22.46	2.82	62	2,531	135	3,967
Lehighton	86	49	70	1	0.12	2	27.73	8.23	79	2,253	-65	3,661
Matamoras	87	48	67	-2	0.00	0	21.75	1.93	62	1,975	-125	3,337
Tobyhanna	86	41	66	4	0.00	0	27.84	6.88	87	1,916	461	3,257
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	53	73	6	0.19	2	20.32	2.08	72	2,439	315	3,843
Derry	84	52	69	3	0.22	2	30.64	11.69	81	2,162	155	3,544
Myersdale	85	46	66	-2	0.26	1	23.06	2.39	66	1,775	-193	3,105
Mount Pleasant	84	49	70	5	0.05	1	27.14	5.60	62	2,191	401	3,564
Pittsburgh Intl	84	55	73	5	0.24	4	26.02	8.82	74	2,475	254	3,877
Rector	87	48	71	5	0.31	3	30.66	9.12	87	2,209	419	3,594
Waynesburg	86	51	71	4	0.15	3	25.26	6.35	74	2,260	199	3,639
South Central												
Biglerville	89	55	74	3	0.18	1	27.96	11.18	70	2,536	-15	3,960
Everett	88	50	69	1	2.92	2	23.60	7.00	63	1,957	-145	3,293
Hanover	90	56	74	3	0.00	0	26.19	9.41	62	2,642	91	4,070
Shippensburg	89	55	73	2	0.23	1	28.58	12.07	66	2,673	139	4,098
South Mountain	86	51	70	2	0.00	0	24.69	7.67	55	2,159	47	3,526
York	89	55	74	3	0.01	1	22.32	3.94	58	2,626	87	4,061
Southeast												
Green Lane	92	53	74	5	0.00	0	26.58	7.47	63	2,809	523	4,268
Hamburg	90	53	72	4	0.03	1	26.90	4.75	71	2,529	430	3,964
Hopewell	89	54	72	-2	0.05	1	28.62	8.78	86	2,580	-101	4,017
Lancaster	88	55	72	2	0.01	1	27.70	8.30	69	2,618	205	4,063
Neshaminy Falls	93	50	72	2	0.00	0	25.69	3.46	59	2,760	372	4,211
New Holland	90	53	73	3	0.00	0	27.88	8.48	71	2,626	213	4,057
Philadelphia	89	60	75	2	0.00	0	25.89	6.94	60	3,023	268	4,489
Philadelphia NE	89	57	74	0	0.01	1	27.39	8.44	64	2,936	181	4,399
Reading	90	55	73	3	0.00	0	26.89	6.31	62	2,664	289	4,113
Valley Forge Na	91	50	72	-1	0.00	0	26.66	6.82	57	2,668	-13	4,107
Willow Grove	88	56	72	2	0.00	0	22.40	0.17	65	2,744	356	4,202

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

BERKS COUNTY, Theresa Tracey (FSA) - -
Finally, a dry week for field work. Producers took advantage and were busy making hay.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - -
Finally able to make some hay without the threat of rain. Overall quality of the hay crop this year is poor, as most was either rained on or made too late. Many farmers are saying the corn crop looks like the best in several years. Beans are big and bushy, though they may not have as many pods as they should. Yields should be well above average barring any weather disasters.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - - This has been the first week that we had more than 2 days drying time for hay. Potato season is just beginning. A lot of fields have been killed getting ready for full harvest days. A few fields of oats are left to harvest.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - - Good week for field work. Some nice hay was made during the week. Three-quarters of an inch of rain was received here.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - -
Good beginning of the week for field work. Hay baling was the main field activity. The main social activity, however, was the Crawford County Fair. Farmers from all around the area, both young and old, were at the fair. Good weather prevailed until the weekend which dampened, but did not stop, any of the events.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - - Hot dry weather has helped the corn crop. Alfalfa cutting and silage harvesting were the main activities of the week. This week should see all silage harvest beginning. Tonage reports for silage have been above average, but quality is only average. Fruit has been early all summer and the peach harvest is nearly done. This is about two weeks early. Apples are following up just as early. Summer varieties are not keeping well due to the excess rains. Growers are concerned about the keeping quality of the canner varieties. All the rain this summer has made fruit production for the orchardists as much a challenge as hay making for the dairy producers.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - - Farmers are very busy with lots of corn silage being harvested. Wonderful week for making hay and getting in the last of the tobacco.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - - Best week in a long time for field work; low clouds in the morning and humidity prevented hay from drying very well. Corn silage harvest will pick up intensity soon. Crops look very good.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - - A very good week with six days of sunshine and no rain until Saturday when nearly one-half inch of rainfall fell. The sun and warmer temperatures caused the corn and soybeans to make considerable advances toward maturity. There are some signs of leaf disease in a few corn fields. The main activities were haymaking, spreading manure, and preparing equipment for fall seeding and fall harvest.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - - Some sunshine finally made it our way. Crop growth is looking up, but hay is beyond maturity in many fields. There's not enough dry weather to bale hay; more baleage is being made to get hay off the field in order to get one more cutting.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - -
Some good hay harvested this week with the fair weather conditions. Dry hay is still in very short supply this season. Corn and soybeans continue to progress nicely. Silage harvest could soon begin on early-planted corn.

YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz (FSA) - - Corn silage harvest began in earnest. Typical summer weather pattern arrived with hot, muggy weather. Vegetable and fruit harvests are going well.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 29, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	12	8	14
Corn, dough	79	63	71
Corn, dent	44	18	36
Corn, mature	8	2	6
Corn silage, harvested	16	5	16
Oats, ripe	99	99	98
Oats, harvested	95	90	92
Tobacco, harvested	72	14	25
Potatoes, harvested	23	18	23
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	95	92	94
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	65	58	69
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	12	17	25
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	66	66	70
Peaches, harvested	82	75	83
Apples, harvested	35	27	25
Grapes, harvested	17	1	5

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 29, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	2	10	41	46
Soybeans	0	1	7	52	40
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	3	19	62	15
Quality of hay made	2	9	29	52	8
Pasture	4	6	22	55	13
Apples	0	0	19	51	30

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